EXHIBIT 4
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Transferability Activities in the Montana University System

Transferability has been a focus of concern and criticism for a number of years. The MUS has established a set of policies to enable us to address these issues. The MUS has also developed several new initiatives, some of which require additional state funding, which will help us more fully address our transfer issues.

Current Policies

In May 2005, the Montana Board of Regents approved several policies to improve transferability in the Montana University System. The first six policies, described below, were adopted in response to a Transfer of Credits Performance Audit by the Legislative Audit Division of the Montana Legislature. They include:

1. A System of Controls policy that establishes deadlines for evaluation of transfer credits, documentation of those decisions, and centralization of all records concerning transfer student coursework.
2. A revised policy on general education coursework that creates three clear alternatives that students can use to satisfy the lower division general education requirement on all of the campuses.
3. A policy that sets out the characteristics of two-year degree programs and certificates, so those programs are more uniform and, therefore, more easily transferable.
4. A policy that establishes guidelines for outdated coursework, and guarantees that transfer credits will be reviewed if they fall within those guidelines.
5. A policy that establishes consistent minimum grades throughout the Montana University System for major or minor classes, general education coursework and elective credits.
6. A common, model curriculum for all practical nursing programs in the System; that curriculum leads directly into the two-year registered nursing program on the three campuses that offer both credentials.
7. A policy that creates a common appeal process on all of the campuses for transfer decisions.
8. A "single admissions" file policy that permits students to move from campus to campus within the Montana University System without all of the paperwork historically associated with the admissions process.

Detailed information about transferability policies in the Montana University System can be reviewed at the following website:
http://mus.montana.edu/transfer/index.htm

<u>New Initiatives</u>
In addition to the above-described policies, the Montana University System has undertaken the following initiatives to improve transferability:

--A project to put the Montana University System General Education Core on-line, so students can complete one of the alternatives described in the second bullet above regardless of where they live.

--The creation of a standing committee of the Montana Board of Regents to review and coordinate general education practices in the System, especially as they apply to transfer students.

--A budget initiative before the 2007 Montana Legislature to establish faculty councils to review coursework at the 100 and 200-level, and develop common learning outcomes for 22 different program areas. The initiative is based on successful programs in South Dakota, Ohio and Florida, and recognizes the complex role of faculty in making curriculum decisions for accreditation purposes.

--The 2007 budget initiative also includes funding for expansion of our Student Data Warehouse, to enable us to better analyze and improve our transfer activity and to link that Warehouse with K-12, Department of Labor and community college data. Analysis of current data reveals that, on average, transfer students complete only 9 more credits than non-transfer students to complete a baccalaureate degree. This is a smaller number than generally assumed, especially in light of the fact that many students transfer because they are changing majors, with very different course requirements. Having a rich set of data will improve our ability to evaluate the effectiveness of our transfer system of its impact on our students, and determine quickly where any trouble spots or difficulties for students are showing up.